

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/769,968	MILLER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Marissa J. Detschel	2886

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment filed January 19, 2007.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12 and 15-28.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date 20070311.
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Kondas (RN 40,685) on March 9, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 1, line 8, the phrase "and" has been removed.
- In claim 1, line 11, the phrase "data." has been replaced with --data; and--
- In claim 1, the limitation --generating a signal indicative of the contaminants on said window surface.-- has been added to the end of the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-12, and 15-28 are allowed in view of the prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method of detecting contaminants on a window surface of a viewing system comprising injecting light edgewise into the window to cause the light to pass internally through the window from one window edge to the other along an axis which intersects the viewing area of the window, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 3-10, which depend from claim 1, are also allowed in view of their dependencies on claim 1.

As to claim 11, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an apparatus for detecting contaminants on an external surface of a window of a viewing system comprising at least one light source disposed to inject light edgewise into the

window to cause the light to pass internally through the window from one window edge to the other along an axis which intersects the viewing area of the window, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 11. Claims 12 and 15-20, which depend from claim 11, are also allowed in view of their dependencies on claim 11.

As to claim 21, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a viewing system comprising at least one light source disposed to inject light edgewise into a window of the viewing system to cause reflections of the injected light off of contaminants on the window surface, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 21. Claims 22-28, which depend from claim 21, are also allowed in view of their dependencies on claim 21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa J. Detschel whose telephone number is 571-272-2716. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tarifur Chowdhury can be reached on 571-272-2287. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



March 10, 2007
MJD

HWA (ANDREW) LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER